

DESCRIPTION

RECEIVING APPARATUS, TRANSMITTING APPARATUSAND COMMUNICATION METHOD

5 Technical Field

The present invention relates to a receiving apparatus, transmitting apparatus and communication method that perform packet transmission.

10 Background Art

Downlink high rate packet transmission schemes (including HSDPA) in which a plurality of communication terminal apparatuses share a high rate and large capacity downlink channel are being developed. These transmission schemes employ
15 scheduling techniques for improved transmission efficiency.

A scheduling technique refers to a technique of having a base station apparatus set the communication terminal apparatus for the transmission destination of packets and assign packets to transmit to the apparatus on a per time slot basis.

20 Moreover, an adaptive modulation technique refers to a technique of determining modulation schemes or error correction coding schemes adaptively according to propagation path condition of the communication terminal apparatus to transmit packets to.

The base station apparatus estimates channel quality with
25 each communication terminal apparatus on a per time slot basis in one frame, selects the communication terminal apparatus having the best channel quality, and assigns packets for the

apparatus to each time slot. The base station apparatus performs error correction encoding and modulation of the packets by schemes determined through scheduling, and transmits the packets with information showing the scheduling result.

5 Based on the received information showing the scheduling result, each communication terminal apparatus performs decoding and error detection processing including CRC detection in a time slot to which a packet to its own station is assigned. When the packet data is correctly decoded, an ACK signal showing
10 this result is transmitted to the base station apparatus, and, when the packet data is not correctly decoded, a NACK signal showing this result is transmitted to the base station apparatus.

 Upon receiving the NACK signal the base station apparatus retransmits the previously transmitted packet or transmits a
15 packet combinable with the previously transmitted packet in the time slot assigned by the scheduling. However, the packet is discarded and a new packet is transmitted when the number of times of retransmission reaches the maximum number of times for retransmission previously set in the system.

20 However, there is a problem with the conventional system that, the base station apparatus retransmits a packet upon receiving a NACK signal, and repeats packet retransmission to the communication terminal apparatus having poor channel quality when transmitting the packets to a plurality of
25 communication terminal apparatuses during scheduling, thus overall system throughput is reduced.

Disclosure of Invention

An object of the present invention is to provide a receiving apparatus, a transmitting apparatus and a communication method capable of improving overall system throughput in a wireless
5 communication system that performs packet transmission.

The object is achieved by having a base station apparatus stop retransmission of packet and redo the scheduling upon receiving a SUSPEND signal that instructs to temporarily suspend packet transmission or a GIVEUP signal that instructs to stop
10 packet transmission.

Brief Description of Drawings

FIG.1 is a block diagram illustrating a configuration of a communication terminal apparatus according to Embodiment 1
15 of the present invention;

FIG.2 is a view specifically explaining ARQ of Embodiment 1 of the present invention;

FIG.3 is a block diagram illustrating the configuration of a base station apparatus according to Embodiment 1 of the
20 present invention;

FIG.4A is a view specifically explaining scheduling according to Embodiment 1 of the present invention;

FIG.4B is a diagram specifically explaining scheduling according to Embodiment 1 of the present invention; and,

25 FIG.5 is a block diagram illustrating the configuration of a communication terminal apparatus according to Embodiment 2 of the present invention.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

Embodiments of the present invention will be described below in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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(Embodiment 1)

FIG.1 is a block diagram showing the configuration of a communication terminal apparatus according to Embodiment 1 of the present invention. Communication terminal apparatus 100 shown in FIG.1 has antenna 101, RF receiver 102, demodulator 103, combiner 104, buffer 105, error correction decoder 106, error detector 107, switch 108, SIR (Signal to Interference Ratio) measurer 109, SIR determiner 110, command generator 111, CIR (Carrier to Interference Ratio) measurer 112, CIR information generator 113, modulator 114, and RF transmitter 115.

RF receiver 102 performs predetermined radio processing upon a signal received by antenna 101, outputs a baseband signal of the dedicated channel to demodulator 103, and outputs a baseband signal of the common control channel to CIR measurer 112.

Demodulator 103 demodulates the output signal from RF receiver 102 and outputs the result to combiner 104. In addition, demodulator 103 outputs the desired signal level and the interference signal level measured during the modulation process to SIR measurer 109.

Combiner 104 combines the output signal from demodulator

103 with a signal saved in buffer 105, and outputs the composite signal to buffer 105 and to error correction decoder 106. Buffer 105 outputs the signal saved therein to combiner 104, and overwrites and saves therein the new signal output from combiner
5 104.

Error correction decoder 106 performs error correction decoding processing including Viterbi decoding upon the signal output from combiner 104, and outputs the result to error detector 107. Error detector 107 performs an error detection
10 (CRC decision) on the output signal from error correction decoder 106, and, when an error is detected, outputs a NACK signal to command generator 111. On the other hand, when no error is detected, error detector 107 deletes the signal saved in buffer 105, connects switch 108, and outputs an ACK signal to command
15 generator 111. As a result, when no error is detected, the received data output from error correction decoder 106 is output to an unillustrated apparatus that performs subsequent processing.

SIR measurer 109 measures the ratio between the desired
20 signal level and the interference signal level (i.e. the SIR), and outputs a signal that represents the measurement result to SIR determiner 110. SIR determiner 110 draws a scale comparison of the SIR measured at SIR measurer 109 to threshold level Th1 and threshold level Th2 that are set in advance
25 (Threshold level Th1 > Threshold level Th2), and outputs a signal that represents the comparison result to command generator 111.

When the SIR is greater than threshold level Th1, command generator 111 outputs the ACK signal or the NACK signal output from error correction decoder 106 to modulator 114. Moreover, when the SIR is below threshold level Th1 yet greater than threshold level Th2, command generator 111 outputs a SUSPEND signal that instructs to temporarily suspend the packet transmission. When the SIR is below threshold level Th2, command generator 111 outputs a GIVEUP signal that instructs to stop the packet transmission to modulator 114. In addition, when after the SUSPEND signal has been transmitted a packet for another communication terminal apparatus has a greater SIR than threshold level Th1, command generator 111 outputs a RESUME signal that instructs to resume the packet transmission to modulator 114. Hereinafter the signals generated at command generator 111 will be collectively referred to as "ARQ command."

CIR measurer 112 uses the signal of the common control channel and measures the ratio between the carrier and the interference signal level (CIR), and outputs a signal that represents the measurement result to CIR information generator 113. CIR information generator 113 outputs information (hereinafter "CIR information") that represents the CIR measured at CIR measurer 112 to modulator 114.

Modulator 114 modulates the ARQ command output from command generator 111 and the CIR information output from CIR information generator 113, and outputs the result to RF transmitter 115. RF transmitter 115 converts the output signal from modulator 114 into radio frequency, and transmits the result from antenna

101 by radio.

Next, ARQ according to the present embodiment will be described in detail with reference to FIG.2.

FIG.2 assumes a case where communication terminal
5 apparatus 100 first receives new packet 201. Communication
terminal apparatus 100 saves packet 201 in buffer 105, performs
error correction decoding processing upon packet 201 in error
correction decoder 106, and performs error detection processing
in error detector 107. In addition, communication terminal
10 apparatus 100 measures the SIR of packet 201 in SIR measurer
109, and draws a scale comparison of the SIR to threshold levels
Th1 and Th2 in SIR determiner 110. If, as a result, an error
is detected (CRC=NG) and the SIR is greater than threshold level
Th1, communication terminal apparatus 100 transmits a NACK
15 signal 251 to the base station apparatus.

Next, communication terminal apparatus 100 receives
retransmission packet (RET) 202, saves a composite packet (201
+ 202) in buffer 105, performs error correction decoding
processing upon the composite packet (201 + 202) in error
20 correction decoder 106, and performs error detection processing
in error detector 107. In addition, communication terminal
apparatus 100 measures the SIR of packet 202 in SIR measurer
109, and draws a scale comparison of the SIR to threshold levels
Th1 and Th2 in SIR determiner 110. If, as a result, an error
25 is detected (CRC=NG) and the SIR is greater than threshold level
Th1, communication terminal apparatus 100 transmits NACK signal
252 to the base station apparatus.

Next, communication terminal apparatus 100 receives retransmission packet 203, saves a composite packet (201 + 202 + 203) in buffer 105, performs error correction decoding processing upon the composite packet (201 + 202 + 203) in error
5 correction decoder 106, and performs error detection processing in error detector 107. In addition, communication terminal apparatus 100 measures the SIR of packet 203 in SIR measurer 109, and draws a scale comparison of the SIR to threshold levels Th1 and Th2 in SIR determiner 110. If, as a result, an error
10 is detected (CRC=NG) and the SIR is below threshold level Th1 yet greater than threshold level Th2, communication terminal apparatus 100 transmits SUSPEND signal 253 to the base station apparatus.

By this means, the base station apparatus transmits packets
15 to other communication terminal apparatuses for a predetermined period of time (in FIG.2, a time period of 2 frames).

Next, when the 2-frame time period is over, communication terminal apparatus 100 measures the SIR of a packet for another communication terminal apparatus in SIR measurer 109, and draws
20 a scale comparison of the SIR to threshold levels Th1 and Th2 in SIR measurer 110. If, as a result, the SIR is below threshold level Th2, communication terminal apparatus 100 transmits GIVEUP signal 254 to the base station apparatus.

Thus, in addition to ACK./NACK signals, the communication
25 terminal apparatus of the present embodiment transmits SUSPEND signals, RESUME signals, and GIVEUP signals depending on the relationships between the receiving SIR and the threshold levels

in scale.

Incidentally, referring to FIG.2, if, after a SUSPEND signal has been transmitted, the SIR of a packet for another communication terminal apparatus is greater than threshold
5 level Th1, communication terminal apparatus 100 transmits a RESUME signal to the base station apparatus, and resumes receiving retransmission packet 204.

Next, the configuration of a base station apparatus according to the present embodiment will be described with
10 reference to the block diagram of FIG.3. Base station apparatus 300 shown in FIG.3 is configured essentially with antenna 301, RF receiver 302, demodulator 303, scheduler 304, command detector 305, buffer 306, error correction encoder 307, modulators 308 and 309, and RF transmitter 310.

15 RF receiver 302 performs predetermined radio processing upon a signal transmitted from a communication terminal apparatus currently engaged in communication and received by antenna 301, and outputs a baseband signal to demodulator 303. Demodulator 303 demodulates the output signal from RF receiver
20 302, outputs the ARQ command to command detector 305, and outputs the CIR information to scheduler 304.

Scheduler 304 performs a scheduling such that the communication terminal apparatuses to transmit packets to are determined according to the order in the CIR information output
25 from demodulator 303, and determines the modulation schemes and the coding rates for the packets. Then, scheduler 304 outputs a signal that represents a communication terminal apparatus

to transmit a packet to, to command detector 305 and buffer 306, outputs a signal that represents the coding rate to error correction encoder 307, and outputs a signal that represents the modulation scheme to modulator 308.

5 Also, scheduler 304 stops retransmission when receiving a SUSPEND signal or a GIVEUP signal from command detector 305, and redoes the scheduling.

 Among the ARQ commands, command detector 305 detects the one transmitted from the communication terminal apparatus
10 selected in scheduler 304, outputs an ACK/NACK signal to buffer 306, and outputs a SUSPEND signal or a GIVEUP signal to scheduler 304.

 Buffer 306 selects the data for the communication terminal apparatus specified by scheduler 304. Thereupon, when receiving
15 an ACK signal from command detector 305, buffer 306 deletes the data stored therein, and outputs new data to error correction encoder 307 while also storing the new data. On the other hand, when receiving a NACK signal from command detector 305, buffer 306 outputs the data stored therein to error correction encoder
20 307.

 Error correction encoder 307 attaches a CRC bit to the output signal from buffer 306, and performs error correction encoding processing by a scheme of the coding rate selected in scheduler 304 and outputs the result to modulator 308.
25 Modulator 308 modulates the output signal from error correction encoder 307 by the modulation scheme selected in scheduler 304 and outputs the result to RF transmitter 310.

Modulator 309 modulates the signal of the common control channel and outputs the result to RF transmitter 310. RF transmitter 310 converts the output signals from modulator 308 and modulator 309 into radio frequency, and transmits the result
5 from antenna 301 by radio.

Next, the scheduling by the base station apparatus of the present embodiment will be described in detail with reference to FIG.4A and FIG.4B.

FIG.4A shows conventional scheduling. In this case, a
10 packet is transmitted to the communication terminal apparatus having the highest CIR upon transmission of the packet (for instance, terminal A at time t1 and terminal B at time t4), and, when a NACK signal is received, the packet is retransmitted (RET). Afterwards, when errors keep being detected in the
15 communication terminal apparatus to which the packet was transmitted, the base station apparatus repeats retransmission up to the maximum number of times for retransmission (9 times) (times t5 to t13), and thereafter gives up retransmitting the packet to the communication terminal apparatus (terminal B),
20 and, at the next timing (time t14), transmits the packet to the communication terminal apparatus then having the highest CIR (terminal C).

By contrast with this, with the scheduling according to the present invention shown in FIG.4B, when a SUSPEND signal
25 is received at time t7 from terminal B, the base station apparatus temporarily suspends the retransmission of the packet to terminal B, and transmits the packet to terminal C having the

highest CIR at time t_7 .

Thus, the base station apparatus, upon receiving a SUSPEND signal that instructs to temporarily suspend packet transmission or a GIVEUP signal that instructs to stop packet
5 transmission, stops retransmitting packets and redoes the scheduling, so that it is possible to reduce the number of retransmission packets and improve overall system throughput.

Incidentally although a case has been described with the present embodiment where threshold level Th_1 and threshold level
10 Th_2 are predetermined levels, the present invention is by no means limited to this, and it is equally possible to variably control the threshold levels such as by, for example, detecting the error rate and determining threshold levels that keep the error rate at a constant level.

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(Embodiment 2)

A case has been described with Embodiment 1 where a communication terminal apparatus transmits a SUSPEND signal or a GIVEUP signal to the base station apparatus immediately
20 when the SIR is below a predetermined threshold level. By contrast with this, a case will be described here with Embodiment 2 where a communication terminal apparatus transmits a SUSPEND signal or a GIVEUP signal to a base station apparatus according to another criterion of judgment.

25 FIG.5 is a block diagram illustrating the configuration of a communication terminal apparatus according to Embodiment 2 of the present invention. Parts in communication terminal

apparatus 500 shown in FIG.5 that are identical with those of communication terminal apparatus 100 shown in FIG.1 are assigned the same reference numerals, and explanations thereof are omitted.

5 In communication terminal apparatus 500 shown in FIG.5, the operation of command generator 501 is different than command generator 111 in FIG.1.

 Command generator 501 has a counting function and counts the number of times the same determination result is output
10 from SIR determiner 110 consecutively and/or the number of times NACK signals are output from error detector 107 consecutively, and generates a command according to whether or not the count value reaches a predetermined number.

 For example, according to determination results by SIR
15 determiner 110, if the SIR is below threshold level Th1 and greater than threshold level Th2 for two consecutive slots, a SUSPEND signal is generated, and thereafter a RESUME signal is generated if the SIR of at least one slot is greater than threshold level Th1. Alternatively, if the SIR is below threshold
20 level Th2 for three consecutive slots, a SUSPEND signal is generated. In addition, regardless of determination results by SIR determiner 110, a SUSPEND signal is generated if there is an output from error detector 107 for three consecutive slots.

25 Thus, the communication terminal apparatus of the present embodiment compares the receiving SIR to threshold levels and transmits ACK/NACK signals, SUSPEND signals, RESUME signals

and GIVEUP signals according to the number of times the same comparison result continues. By this means, the base station apparatus, upon receiving a SUSPEND signal or a GIVEUP signal, stops retransmitting packets and redoes the scheduling, so that
5 it is possible to further reduce the number of retransmission packets and improve overall system throughput.

Incidentally, although a case has been described with each of the embodiments above where a command is generated depending on the relationship between the measured SIR and the threshold
10 level in scale, the present invention is by no means limited to this, and it is equally possible to use, instead of the SIR, other parameters including the CIR, likelihood of receiving signals, and receiving electric field intensity.

Moreover, although a downlink packet transmission system
15 has been described with each of the embodiments above where packets are transmitted from the base station apparatus to the communication terminal apparatus, the present invention is equally applicable to an uplink packet transmission system.

In addition, the present invention is applicable to a system
20 where individual base station apparatuses are provided for the uplink and the downlink.

As obvious from the above descriptions, according to the present invention, the communication terminal apparatus transmits a SUSPEND signal, a RESUME signal and a GIVEUP signal
25 other than ACK/NACK signals to the base station apparatus, and upon receiving a SUSPEND signal or a GIVEUP signal, the base station apparatus stops retransmitting packets and redoes the

scheduling, so that it is possible to reduce the number of retransmission packets and improve overall system throughput.

This application is based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-235119 filed on August 12, 2002, entire content of
5 which is expressly incorporated by reference herein.

Industrial Applicability

The present invention is suitable for use of a communication terminal apparatus and a base station apparatus that perform
10 packet transmission.